



Boxgrove–Halnaker Windmill Trail

With the compliments of Boxgrove Parish Council

A The Anglesey Arms

Believed to date from 1815, *The Anglesey Arms* is named after the Marquis of Anglesey whose daughter married into the Richmond family. It lies on the former Roman road between London and Chichester, known as Stane Street, and is still used as a public house, serving drinks and hot and cold food. The inn has a large car park, pleasant beer garden and is directly accessible from the Windmill Trail public footpath to the rear. Please check opening times.

B Halnaker Windmill

Passing along the ancient Roman London to Chichester route of Stane Street through an attractive archway of trees, the windmill can be found on Halnaker Hill which forms part of the South Downs. The original mill was first recorded in 1540. The exact age of the windmill is uncertain, although 1850 is stated on the official listed building register. This is probably incorrect as there is a drawing from Goodwood Estate maps of 1780-1790 showing a 'tower mill' on top of Halnaker Hill with indicative door and windows which is probably the first reliable indicator of the present mill being there. There was also a two-room miller's cottage on the hilltop, to the south east of the windmill, which was built and occupied by 1851, this became derelict before 1900 and was subsequently demolished in 1902. The low mound with central crater next to the windmill is thought to have been an earlier windmill site for a removed post mill (a box with sails mounted upon a post). This would probably date back to well before 1780. The windmill was a working mill until it was struck by lightning in 1905. The windmill you see today has recently been restored by West Sussex County Council and is a popular local visitor destination.

C World War 2 structures

In the vicinity of Halnaker Windmill are the remains of four WW2 military structures located around the hilltop (just one can be accessed by the public). These are the brick-built bases of (now gone) timber radio direction finder (RDF) towers and antennae. Wartime RAF personnel within these towers monitored and reported radio messages from aircraft travelling inland and towards the coast. It is understood that the antennae were on wooden platforms within the towers and could be revolved by a pedal-powered cog wheel.

D Boxgrove Man

Boxgrove Quarry, now an inert waste landfill, is a highly important archaeological site. In 1993, a human shin bone was excavated dating to about 500,000 years ago. In 1995, two teeth from another human, along with many animal bones and flint tools were found.

These are the earliest hominid remains found in the British Isles. The climate was then warm, with horses, deer, bears, rhinos, wolves, hyenas and beavers living on a grassy plain below the cliffs of the chalk downs. The English Channel did not exist at that time, so Boxgrove man was part of a European population of hominids named *Homo Heidelbergensis*, later to develop into the Neanderthals and *Homo Sapiens*. This period was one of a series of warmer spells between ice ages when the sea levels changed, the cliffs eroded and sands and gravels were deposited to bury the site.

E Boxgrove Priory

What you see today is a part of the monastic church, now the parish church, and the ruined guest house. The Priory was founded in 1105 when the Saxon church and its lands was given by the Lord of Halnaker to the abbey of Lessay in Normandy. Three monks were sent over to administer the gift and building began. The first stage dates from about 1120. By 1160 the Saxon church had gone and the Norman building enlarged, in about 1190 the present east end was built. The ruined guest house in the farm courtyard to the north dates from the 14th century. The priory was dissolved in 1537 after the Reformation. The then Lord of the Manor, Thomas de la Warr, bought the monks' half of the church to continue as a parish church, having just paid for a painted ceiling and built a chantry tomb in the church which still survives. The church is open every day and welcomes visitors and pilgrims.

F Boxgrove Village Stores


Boxgrove Village Stores has been in existence for over 100 years providing a valuable community service to local residents and visitors. It serves hot and cold drinks, home-made snacks and ice cream, and is conveniently located just south of Church Lane at the end of the Windmill Trail. Please check for opening times.



 5 miles/8 kilometres

 1½ to 2 hours approximately

 300 feet/91 metres

 Moderate difficulty
with kissing gates



The Windmill Trail

- 1 From Boxgrove Village Hall car park, walk uphill on the footpath adjacent to the road. Cross the road to the gate opposite, then proceed onto a signed public footpath heading straight ahead. The windmill can be seen in the distance to your left.
- 2 Turn left at the T-junction, following the footpath round the field until reaching a fork. Take the right-hand path, towards an avenue of trees ahead.
- 3 At a kissing gate turn right onto the road (Tinwood Lane), and then after 100 metres enter a pedestrian gate on the left and follow the path across a short open field through a second pedestrian gate, continuing straight ahead. Keep to the right-hand path when entering a small copse at the end of this field.
- 4 In the next field, follow the footpath leftwards aiming for a metal gate at the main road. Cross this busy road carefully towards the small parking area.
- 5 Take the right-hand track uphill (passing Mill Cottage to your left as you progress) towards the well-known archway of trees, which formed part of the original Roman road between London and Chichester. Follow the track until reaching some steps on the right. Climb the steps and continue on the footpath towards a metal kissing gate with views of a small field on the right.
- 6 Pass through this gate and continue uphill before the path forks, keep left here and head towards the visible metal kissing gate. Pass through the gate and the track then leads to Halnaker Windmill. Returning downhill, retrace the route to Tinwood Lane.
- 7 Pass through a pedestrian gate and turn left onto the road, passing the entrance to Tinwood Vineyard where it then turns into an unmade footpath (Boxgrove Quarry is on your left). Continue walking straight ahead until you reach a kissing gate into a field.
- 8 Enter the field and immediately turn right onto a footpath, keeping the vines to your left and continue straight across the crossroads.
- 9 At a T-junction you will see Boxgrove Priory ahead; turn left and walk along the hedgerow path. Turning right at the end of the hedgerow, follow the short path towards the Priory and through a kissing gate on to Church Lane.
- 10 The Church of St. Blaise is one of the most important churches in Sussex and the Priory ruins are reached by following the left-hand path at the church doors, leading behind the church.



Returning to Church Lane, turn right and continue to the main road. To your left is Boxgrove Village Stores where refreshments are available. To return to Boxgrove Village Hall, cross the road and turn right, passing the village school and historic almshouses on your left before reaching the car park.

Useful information

Public transport

Stagecoach and Compass run most of the local buses that pass through Boxgrove and Halnaker.

Timetables are available at stagecoachbus.com/south or compass-travel.co.uk.

Accessibility

Please note that there are kissing gates on the route. This may affect accessibility for some people.

Tourist information

visitchichester.org

The walk was tested in 2020. Please note however that some footpaths may be diverted and buildings such as pubs and shops may be closed at certain times.

All distances and timings are approximate.

The map is intended as a guide and is not to scale. Please use **Explorer Map OL10** (Arundel & Pulborough); the map reference for the start point of the walk is **907076**.